



ES&H SYNERGY

DOE/EH-0487-8

DOE/Chemical Manufacturers Association Share Best Practices At Chemical Safety Workshop

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Chemical Manufacturer's Association (CMA) kicked off a new chemical safety partnership as more than 100 chemical safety professionals from DOE and industry met at a workshop in Arlington, Virginia, on July 23-24. Under an agreement signed by Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, Tara O'Toole, and Frederick Webber, President and CEO of CMA, the two organizations will form a mutual assistance network to address chemical safety issues and share lessons learned. The agreement grows out of DOE's effort to develop an integrated safety management program and incorporate principles from the CMA's Responsible Care® program. Responsible Care® is a comprehensive environment, safety and health (ES&H) initiative developed by CMA to help the chemical industry improve its ES&H performance. Responsible Care® entails many elements that DOE believes can be used to improve performance at its chemical-related facilities.

During the 2-day workshop, attendees, who included representatives from the chemical industry, DOE field offices, and contractors, heard numerous speakers from both industry and the



Fred Webber, President and CEO of CMA, told workshop attendees that senior management must send the message that superior ES&H practices are a top priority.

Joseph E. Fitzgerald Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety, stressed Assistant Secretary O'Toole's commitment to the DOE/CMA partnership.



Department. This provided an opportunity for the chemical industry and DOE field personnel to share best practices for meeting management's chemical safety responsibilities, provide information about ES&H advances in the chemical industry, and discuss the technical issues involved in implementing a chemical safety program.

On the first day of the workshop, Fred Webber welcomed the workshop participants, noting that it was exactly a year ago that he and Tara O'Toole signed the Memorandum of Understanding that created the partnership between the CMA and DOE. He said that he believes this "dramatic departure from an adversarial model to one of cooperation and collaboration is the way government and industry should conduct business," calling it "the right thing—the smart thing—to do." He also stressed the


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Assistant Secretary O'Toole Resigns

On September 10, 1997, Dr. Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (EH), submitted her resignation to President Clinton. In a letter to EH employees, she expressed pride in the progress made during the past 4 years and in the spirit of EH itself. She also urged EH employees not to lose their "nascent sense of shared purpose," telling them that "these connections multiply EH's reach and vision many-fold and must be part of making the pursuit of safety the goal of everyone at DOE." Dr. O'Toole's resignation became effective on October 10, 1997.

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ES&H Synergy is a quarterly newsletter published by DOE's Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) to promote awareness and information exchange of all environment, safety, and health issues impacting DOE personnel and contractors. Each issue highlights Headquarters and field initiatives in environment, health physics, nuclear and facility safety, occupational medicine, and occupational safety and health. To be added to the distribution list or to receive a copy of this publication, call 1-800-473-4375. *Synergy* is also available electronically through Technical Information Services at <http://tis-hq.eh.doe.gov/docs/synergy/synergy.html>.

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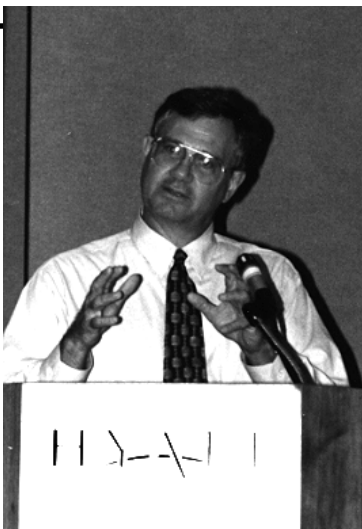
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DOE/Chemical Manufacturers Association Share Best Practices At Chemical Safety Workshop continued

vital role of senior management in promoting ES&H initiatives, telling participants that "the message that superior ES&H practices are a top priority must come from the top."

The second speaker of the morning was Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety. He characterized DOE as becoming "increasingly like a large chemical company," stating that the Department has "the same concerns and mandates as CMA." He told the workshop participants that he and Assistant Secretary O'Toole are very much committed to the CMA/DOE partnership and supportive of its goals. He stressed that they believe collaboration and assistance are "the answers to resolving the many chemical safety issues that the Department faces" and that "CMA offers many, many partners willing to help the Department." He also pointed out that "DOE can offer the CMA not only the results of the Department's research and operations information, but also an additional perspective based on our experiences—a perspective that can be of help to industry." He noted that DOE has earmarked \$16 million for waste minimization and energy efficiency research of benefit to environmentally sound chemical production. He encouraged the industry participants to be conscious of that activity because the data will benefit the chemical industry, as well as the nation as a whole. Fitzgerald noted that in the context of handling chemicals during waste management and deactivation, DOE has to deal with unique issues of residual chemical hazards. He indicated that "there is no more important issue than how we can strengthen our chemical safety management programs." In closing, Mr. Fitzgerald reiterated that the Department "... truly faces a challenge, and industry can be a major asset in how we approach it. We have already benefitted from that experience," he said, and "we look forward to working more closely with the CMA."

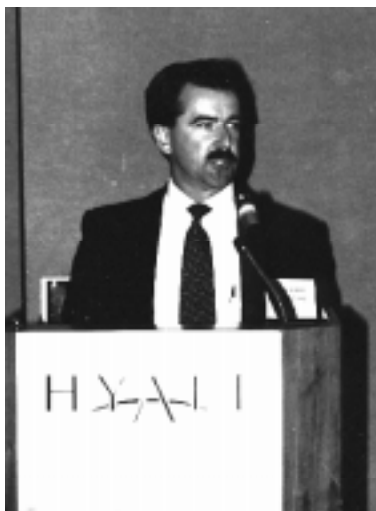
Mr. Arthur G. Randol, III, Senior Environmental Advisor for Exxon Corporation, gave the keynote address. His philosophy for improved ES&H focuses on trust. He pointed out that "trust requires outreach to employees and the public and maintaining a true dialogue which includes listening as well as talking." He suggested that it is important to "move the fenceposts" and consider not only employee safety and concerns but consider the public's safety and perceptions as well. Randol told the workshop participants that "CMA looks forward to working with DOE because [the Department] is 'in the same boat as we are in, were in, and will be in.'" He said CMA wants to see DOE's problems solved. He believes that "resolving the Department's chemical safety issues 'helps DOE's image and also works for the CMA ...'" He advised the workshop attendees on the principles of



Keynote speaker, Arthur G. Randol, III, Senior Environmental Advisor for Exxon Corporation, told attendees to engage both workers and the public in a true dialogue, advising them to listen as well as talk.



George Schlossnagle, Office of Field Support, introduced Joe Fitzgerald to industry and Department workshop participants on the first morning of the workshop.



Peter Knollmeyer, DOE Richland Operations Office, shared insights about integrated safety management and chemical safety from an operations office perspective.

Responsible Care® by saying "integrate it into everything you do—walk it, talk it, sleep it, discuss it." He also advised remembering that an essential element of Responsible Care® is sharing information once a problem is found and addressed. Finally, he reminded the participants that "We are in this together. We really want to help. We want to share ... and the sharing needs to be positive and in real time."

During the afternoon, representatives from industry and DOE made presentations on various topics, including networking as related to hazard recognition; the Responsible Care® initiative; chemical safety program evaluation; and chemical safety programs at Hanford. Peter Knollmeyer, Acting Assistant Manager for Facility Transition at DOE Richland, presented an operations office perspective on integrated safety management and chemical safety and also discussed the recent chemical accident at Hanford. Other topics addressed during the afternoon session were laboratory chemical safety programs, the significance of chemical safety to the organization's bottom line, chemical hazards analysis systems, and chemical safety in hazardous waste operations.

The second day of the workshop began with a demonstration of chemical safety tools available from DOE, the Center for Chemical Process Safety, and CMA. Cynthia Eubanks (eub@ornl.gov) of the DOE Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, presented a "Demonstration of Chemical Safety Tools Available from DOE." There were also presentations on Chemical Tracking Systems, risk reduction in industry, the Voluntary Protection Program and Industrial Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard

14000, and human factors as related to chemical process safety. The workshop concluded with a presentation on community involvement in ES&H programs.

Both industry and DOE attendees gave the workshop high marks, and the CMA has invited DOE to participate in its next Responsible Care® conference to further encourage exchanges and networking. The workshop proceedings, including speaker biographies, abstracts, and the text of presentations, are available on the DOE Chemical Safety Program Home Page, located at http://tis-hq.oh.doe.gov/web/chem_safety/. For additional information on the DOE/CMA mutual assistance network, contact Kenneth Murphy via the home page or George Schlossnagle at (301) 903-9418 or by e-mail (george.schlossnagle@eh.doe.gov).

Three Office of Operating Experience Analysis Process Improvement Teams Receive Hammer Awards

On August 4, 1997, Secretary of Energy Federico Peña and Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Moler presented three Process Improvement Teams, led or co-led by the Office of Operating Experience Analysis (EH-33), with Hammer awards. Vice President Gore's National Performance Review recognized the Lessons Learned, Performance Indicator, and Occurrence Reporting teams for their efforts in cutting red tape, empowering employees, and reducing costs.

Sharing lessons learned prevents repeating mistakes or accidents. It also helps prevent injuries, saves lives, and saves scarce taxpayer dollars. The **Lessons Learned Process Improvement Team**—DOE Federal staff and contractors with no budget and no management mandate—created a system for sharing lessons learned across the DOE complex. They achieved great success with a spirit of teamwork and cooperation and essentially no "up-front" commitment of DOE funding or need for dedicated management attention. The team members made a difference in safety and cost savings and earned the respect and appreciation of everyone they touched. Today every major DOE site has a lessons learned program and a lessons learned site coordinator in place—all without being mandated by bureaucratic regulations.

The **Performance Indicator Team**, made up of a cross-section of Federal employees, broke down information "stovepipes" and produced the first DOE corporate performance indicators for environment, safety, and health. This effort created a highly successful new DOE product and a corresponding process improvement. In addition, through intelligent use of information in electronic databases, their actions saved an estimated \$2 million per year.



Dick Trevillian (L) and Manuel Castro (R) accept the Hammer Award from Secretary Peña on behalf of the Lessons Learned Process Improvement Team, which created and implemented a successful system for sharing lessons learned across the DOE complex.

reporting system took a risk and gave up control as part of their challenge to improve the Occurrence Reporting process. They revolutionized what used to be a top down, prescriptive process by empowering their customers—users in the field—and, in turn, became leaders of change.



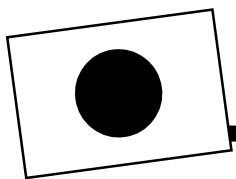
Steve Woodbury (L) and Richard Day (R) display the Hammer Award Secretary Peña presented to the Performance Indicator Team for their outstanding work in creating the first DOE corporate performance indicators for environment, safety, and health.

The **Occurrence Reporting Team's** empowered Federal and contractor employees put the customer in charge and cut DOE's costs for collecting data on environmental and worker accidents by 29 percent, saving \$6 million per year. The team focused on reducing costs without reducing quality. And, with DOE Headquarters and field staff working together, better reporting criteria and thresholds were developed. This reduced costs and increased satisfaction with the new reporting Order. The Headquarters employees who "owned" the

All three teams responded directly to Vice President Gore's challenge to reinvent government and made a lasting difference for the American taxpayer. Tom Rollow, EH-33's Director, said of the teams' efforts: "The entire credit for these accomplishments goes to the teams and their leaders. I ensured they had the time and resources, did a little coaching from the sidelines, and removed barriers where they existed. But mainly, I got out the way and let them run the show." The three Hammer Awards attest to their success.



Secretary Peña presents Eugenia Boyle with the Hammer Award recognizing the efforts of the Occurrence Reporting Team in cutting the costs of data collection for environmental and worker accidents.



50th Anniversary of U.S.—Japan Health Studies

Radiation researchers and scientists from around the world gathered in Washington, D.C., on June 11-14, 1997, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission and the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (ABCC/RERF). Through this program, the U.S. and Japan have jointly sponsored pioneering studies of the health effects of radiation on populations exposed to fallout from the atomic bombs. The results of these studies have been the primary source of data for developing the radiation protection standards used throughout the world.

Initial funding for ABCC was provided solely by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, but as the years progressed, Japanese funding agencies and scientists became increasingly involved. In 1975, the U.S. and Japanese governments formed the RERF to assume the responsibilities of ABCC. Currently, the RERF is cofunded by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH), with the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NAS/NRC) acting as DOE's scientific and administrative liaison.

NAS hosted a symposium on June 13-14 to commemorate the first 50 years of the groundbreaking radiation studies and provide a look to the future. A special reception the evening before, hosted by the Japanese Embassy, honored the many Japanese and American scientists who have retired from ABCC or RERF.

The symposium began with brief remarks from Dr. Bruce Alberts, NAS president; Dr. Itsuzo Shigematsu, retiring RERF chairman; Dr. Tara O'Toole, representing the U.S. government; and Mr. Shotaro Oshima, Minister, Embassy of Japan. Dr. O'Toole noted that "there are few forces more powerful than the force of people working together for common goals" as have the Japanese and American scientists in the RERF. Looking toward the future, she also remarked that "it is imperative that radiation effects research remain vital and continuously supplied with fresh talent and enthusiasm." Dr. O'Toole congratulated the new RERF Chairman, Dr. Shigenobu Nagataki and described her vision that "the science at RERF prosper and the trust be strengthened. . . to come to better understand the effects of radiation in order to better protect, heal, and deal responsibly with the legacy of nuclear weapons production."



Mr. Hawkins greets Dr. Shigematsu at reception honoring Dr. Shigematsu for his years of service with the RERF.



ABCC/RERF Commemorative Ceremony Speakers—Dr. Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (center), Mr. Oshima (left), and Dr. Shigematsu (right).

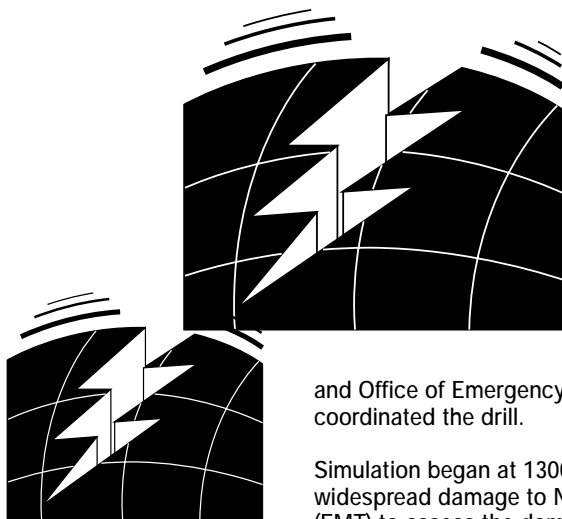
In her remarks, Dr. O'Toole also described how radiation came to the attention of the world in war, wrapped in secrecy. She then stated: "Perhaps, in part because of this gestation, radiation induces a special fear in people. We all hope that nuclear weapons will never again be used on human beings. But, there are many needs and uses of radiation in the world, and we should continue to study the effects of radiation." Dr. O'Toole also noted that "it is critical that radiation studies be conducted openly and transparently so that all who might be inclined in this age of skepticism be assured of the reliability and credibility of these investigations."

The first session of the scientific symposium featured senior American and Japanese scientists and administrators who had worked at RERF and ABCC over the past 50 years. Sessions were held on risk estimation, noncancer effects of radiation exposure, molecular and genetic basis of cancer, dosimetry, and studies on offspring of the atomic bomb survivors. Panels of distinguished scientists contributed ideas and different perspectives to the discussion of these goals.

At the final session on training possibilities at RERF and other collaboration initiatives, Dr. Niel Wald, described the newly funded, cooperative agreement between EH and the University of Pittsburgh. The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program provides a first year of comprehensive classroom instruction, laboratory rotations, and other training activities designed to train multidisciplinary radiation scientists. This is followed by a second year of field study at a location of DOE interest, such as at RERF, at Chelyabinsk, Russia, for studies on Russian nuclear facility workers, or at domestic DOE cleanup projects.

At an evening reception hosted by DOE and NAS, Mr. Frank Hawkins, Director of DOE's Office of International Health Programs, presented a special award to Dr. Shigematsu on his retirement in recognition of 16 years of outstanding service as RERF chairman.

For additional information on ABCC/RERF or the symposium, contact Dr. Joseph Weiss, Office of International Health Programs at (301) 903-1846 or by e-mail (joseph.weiss@eh.doe.gov).



Fossil Energy Emergency Drill Simulates Earthquake/Explosion

On May 15th, the Headquarters Program Office of the Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves (NPR) and the Office of Self-Assessment (FE-6E) cosponsored an emergency drill. The drill was a no-fault, instructional opportunity to simulate Headquarters' role in managing and disseminating information when disaster strikes a facility. A Team of Trusted Agents (i.e., individuals with knowledge of the drill scenario) consisting of personnel from the Naval Petroleum Reserves in California (NPRC); Naval Petroleum Oil Shale Reserves in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming (NPOS-CUW); FE-6E; NPR Program Office; Office of Communications;

and Office of Emergency Management developed the objectives, scripted the scenario, and planned and coordinated the drill.

Simulation began at 1300 EDT with the scenario that an earthquake struck southern California causing severe, widespread damage to NPRC (Elk Hills). The Headquarters staff formed an Emergency Management Team (EMT) to assess the damage and address issues and concerns at NPRC. The EMT fielded calls from the site, senior FE personnel, other DOE offices, the media, the public, and a congressional office.

In the midst of the NPRC response, a second simulated incident occurred. A steam generator exploded at NPOS-CUW (Casper, Wyoming) with one worker down and two missing. Players, including Patricia Fry Godley, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, responded to phone and fax messages from both sites.

A post-drill debriefing allowed participants to share their successes and highlight areas for improvement. Lessons learned from the drill will be issued in the near future. Also, under the guidance and technical assistance of FE-6E, each FE program office is being provided an opportunity to practice their disaster response procedures. The next exercise, tentatively scheduled for September, will include the Federal Energy Technology Center, the Office of Coal and Power Systems, and the Office of Natural Gas and Petroleum Technology.

For additional information, contact Ira Stern in the Office of Self-Assessment, at (202) 586-6541.

DOE Hoisting and Rigging Manual Reclassified as a Standard

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Hoisting and Rigging Manual has been reclassified as a DOE Technical Standard to encompass hoisting and rigging requirements, codes, standards, and regulations and to eliminate the need to maintain extensive (and often incomplete) libraries of hoisting and rigging standards throughout DOE. The September 1996 edition of the Standard includes updated requirements for mobile crane operators passing with a negative result, a substance abuse test, and revised requirements for cranes operating near power lines and transmitter towers.

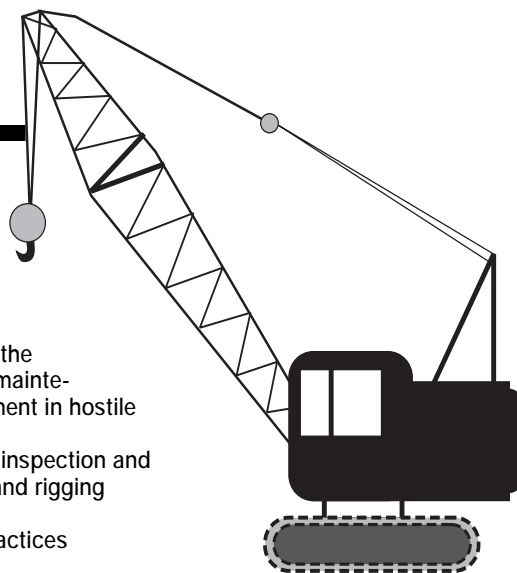
The Standard delineates the more stringent requirements necessary to accomplish the extremely complex, diversified, critical, and hazardous hoisting and rigging work found within the DOE complex. It also addresses the following items that are not covered in detail in the general standards:

- management responsibility and accountability
- operator/inspector training and qualification requirements
- definition of critical lifts and additional requirements for making them
- need and responsibilities of a person-in-charge for critical lifts

- need and responsibilities of a designated leader for ordinary lifts
- definition and special requirements for preengineered production lifts
- special requirements for the testing, inspection, and maintenance of hoisting equipment in hostile environments
- special requirements for inspection and load-testing of hoisting and rigging equipment/accessories
- good and bad rigging practices

The Standard provides clearly defined requirements and guidelines for hoisting and rigging operations, including proper preplanning; attention to detail; trained operators/riggers; and equipment that is reliable, properly designed, inspected, and maintained. Although the Standard is not mandatory, it is in itself a best practice document and is intended as a reference to be used by supervisors, line managers, safety personnel, equipment operators, and any other personnel responsible for safety of hoisting and rigging operations at DOE sites.

DOE's Hoisting and Rigging Standard can be found online at <http://apollo.osti.gov/html/techstds/techstds.html>. For more information about the Standard, contact Pat Finn at (301) 903-9876 or by e-mail (pat.finn@eh.doe.gov).



Workers on Department's FUSRAP Program Complete 1 Million Hours of Safe Work

Workers on the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge-based Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) safely completed more than 1 million work hours between October 4, 1995, and March 23, 1997. FUSRAP's program manager, Al Boos, of Bechtel National Inc., who is responsible for implementation of the safety and health program on FUSRAP, credits the achievement to the dedication of onsite workers as well as the strong leadership of FUSRAP's contractor and subcontractor management.

"Safety considerations are designed into the work plans," Boos said. "However, it's the focus of the onsite workers that keeps the work going smoothly and safely in the field. The program's positive safety culture is a result of each individual's commitment to safety excellence and FUSRAP's Zero Accident philosophy." FUSRAP workers are continuing this tradition of superior safety performance and have set their sights on completing 2 million hours of safe work.

FUSRAP is coordinated through DOE's Former Sites Restoration Division. Bechtel National Inc., is DOE's prime management contractor for FUSRAP, and Science Applications International Corporation is the environmental compliance contractor.



Bechtel FUSRAP Program Manager Al Boos (third from left) presents a plaque for the achievement to DOE Oak Ridge Office manager, Jim Hall. Also pictured are (from left) Joe Nemec, president of Bechtel Environmental Inc.; Bill Seay, acting director of DOE's Former Sites Restoration Division; and (far right) Lee McIntire, president of Bechtel National Inc.

The ES&H Helpline



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"Live and customized technical assistance to users of ES&H Technical Information Services"

The ES&H Helpline is a staffed line that provides customized assistance to users of the Office of Environment, Safety and Health's (EH) Technical Information Services. The Office of Information Management, EH-72, has established the Helpline as part of its mission to maximize the sharing and efficient use of environment, safety, and health (ES&H) information across the DOE complex.

The Helpline makes it easy for customers to get all the information they need from one source in a timely, courteous fashion. When you call the Helpline, knowledgeable information staff will direct you to the appropriate subject matter expert (e.g., Web Coordinator, Workshop Coordinator, System Administrator, InfoCenter staff, etc.) or schedule a computer technician to assist you with a workstation or software inquiry.

Call the ES&H Helpline for support or information on any of the following Technical Information Services—

ES&H Documentation Services

Experienced research staff can assist you with multi-media access to Federal, industry, and international information sources.

ES&H Information Systems

- Information systems specialists can assist you in accessing and operating an EH-owned information system, such as the Occurrence Reporting and Processing System (ORPS), Computerized Accident/Incident Reporting System (CAIRS), or EH Local Area Network.

ES&H Data Analysis

- Experts can assist you in developing and maintaining proven, cost-effective data analysis programs.

Engineering and Development

- Information specialists can provide you with strategic data planning and analytical support designed to improve your ability to address critical environment, safety, and health questions.

Web Site Development

- Experts in Web site development can help your organization design an effective and innovative Web site.

Electronic Publishing Guidance

- Experienced staff can provide the support, training, and tools you need to publish electronically.

Workshops, Seminars, and Tutorials

- Our Helpline staff can help you register for formal and informal computer training, brown-bag seminars, workshops, and demonstrations designed to build information technology proficiency and awareness.

Hardware and Software Support

- Technical staff can assist you with acquisition and trouble-shooting of EH hardware and software applications

EH Video Conferencing

- Helpline staff can assist you in scheduling and operating an EH video conference center.

ES&H Publications

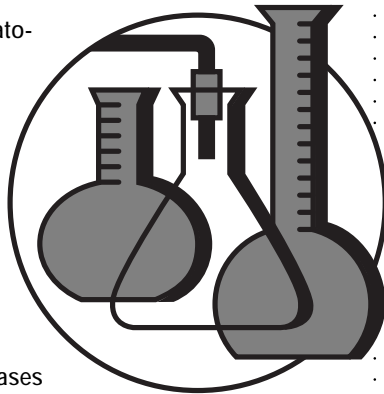
- Helpline staff can assist you in accessing bulletins, newsletters, and other communiques that promote awareness and information exchange on ES&H issues impacting DOE personnel and contractors.

- Helpline staff will also send you any request forms or informational materials that you may need and will direct you to relevant online resources.

National Laboratories Accept Another Unprecedented Mission

The Department of Energy's (DOE) national laboratories, with assistance from Texaco Corporation personnel, started a project in December 1996, to implement a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) at their sites. VPP protects workers by focusing on five key elements of health and safety management as opposed to forcing minimum compliance with thousands of specifications and regulations. DOE's VPP has been in place since 1994 and is patterned after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's VPP (in place since 1993). Companies and contractors participating in the VPP process have experienced substantial decreases in on-the-job injuries. Preventing such injuries improves profits by making the existing workforce more productive and avoiding worker compensation costs.

Dr. Robert Gaither, Texaco's Exploration Processes and Research Technology Division (EPRT), is a key consultant to the national laboratories, showing them how



the private sector adapted the VPP approach to a research setting. The EPRT Division is recognized as a STAR participant in OSHA's VPP for the private sector. Dr. Gaither recently met with managers at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education and briefed them on VPP participation advantages.

Establishing a VPP program in national laboratories poses a new challenge that prompts the labs to examine their organizational culture and their way of conducting internal programs. Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety, said: "I am delighted with the progress being made by the national laboratories in undertaking this challenge. This effort will demonstrate, once again, that our national laboratories are leaders in all fields of endeavor and not only in the realm of science, engineering, and technology. I have every confidence that their efforts will result in a program that will be the benchmark for others."

Department of Energy/National Association of Attorneys General Workgroup Holds Meeting at Savannah River

The Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (EH-41) and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) held a meeting of the DOE/NAAG Workgroup on May 7-9, 1997, in Augusta, Georgia. The meeting began with a 1-day tour of the Savannah River site and ended with a day and a half of discussions about the Department's budget, ten-year plan, environmental legislative reforms, alternative dispute resolution, and other pertinent topics.

The DOE/NAAG Workgroup was formed in 1993 under a cooperative agreement between the former Office of Environmental Compliance, now EH-41, and NAAG. The primary purpose of the agreement is to provide a means to foster open communications between DOE and the individuals who bring enforcement actions against the Department. As the membership organization of the attorneys general of the United States, NAAG is well suited to carry out this purpose.

The Compliance Assistance Division (EH-411) within the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance currently is the project lead. The workgroup comprises representatives from DOE program offices and representatives from state attorneys general offices and environment departments. The workgroup participates in meetings and conference calls, facilitated by representatives from NAAG's Environment Project and EH-411, to discuss DOE environmental issues.

Over the past 4 years, the workgroup has convened meetings in Washington, DC; Pasco, Washington; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition to the Savannah River site, the group has also toured the Hanford and Los Alamos facilities.

Over the course of this agreement, the states and DOE have developed an understanding of the issues they face in complying with and enforcing environmental laws and regulations. It is hoped that this understanding will have a positive influence on DOE's future interactions with the states. The



Cooperative Agreement expired on September 30, 1997. However, to further enhance our interaction with the regulatory community, the Department is committed to maintaining the dialogue established with the states through NAAG.

For more information on NAAG, contact Melanie Pearson, Compliance Assistance Division, Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, at (202) 586-0939 or by e-mail (melanie.pearson@eh.doe.gov).

National Environmental Policy Act Document Preparation Contracts Awarded



On June 18, 1997, the Department awarded contracts to Halliburton NUS Corporation, Science Applications International Corporation, and Tetra Tech, Incorporated, to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document preparation services DOE-wide (including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). The contracts enable individual program or field offices to quickly issue task orders for preparation of an environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, environmental report, or sections of these documents. DOE has taken a major step forward in contracting reform by addressing recognized problems and inefficiencies in NEPA contracting, including contractor qualifications, timely start of work, performance and financial incentives, and local control.

- **Choice of Qualified Contractors**—The contracts were issued under a nationwide competitive procurement. Teams of highly qualified NEPA contractors are available to Offices whose individual NEPA workload would not otherwise justify multiple contracts.
- **Timely Start of Work**—Contracts have been established in advance of the need for individual NEPA documents. Tasks may be started in as little as 2 to 4 weeks, depending on their complexity.
- **Performance Incentives**—Contractor performance will be evaluated at the completion of each task, and Offices may award tasks based entirely or in part on contractor performance of previous tasks.
- **Financial Incentives**—In addition to cost-plus-fixed-fee, Offices may issue a task on a firm-fixed price or cost-plus-incentive-fee basis, depending on how specifically the scope of work may be described in advance. These alternatives create incentives for contractors to work efficiently.
- **Local Control**—Any DOE office may issue tasks under the contracts, even though they were issued by the Albuquerque Operations Office on behalf of the Department. The local NEPA Document Manager and Contracting Officer define the work, establish selection criteria, select the contractor, and fund and administer the work.

One of the first tasks under these contracts was issued in August to support preparation of the Sandia National Laboratories site-wide environmental impact statement. The NEPA Document Manager, Julianne Levings of the Albuquerque Operations Office, reported that "these DOE-wide contracts are much more streamlined than traditional contracting approaches." Albuquerque Contracting Officer Dawn Knepper confirmed that "issuing a task order takes about a month, compared to a year to issue a new contract. These contracts make a difference for everyone."

The DOE-wide contracts are a key part of Strategic Alignment Initiative 29, to achieve \$26 million in NEPA cost savings over 5 years. Initiative 29 recognizes that improving support contracting provides the best opportunities for making the Department's NEPA program work better and cost less—about 70 percent of DOE's NEPA expenditures currently goes to contractors for preparing NEPA documents. NEPA Contracting Reform Guidance issued by the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health in December 1996 provides detailed advice on effective work statements and

management techniques to help achieve the full potential benefits of the new contracts.

Issuing the NEPA document preparation contracts is a major achievement in DOE contract reform. Credit is due to NEPA and to the procurement and legal staff who participated in the March 1996 NEPA Contracting Reform Workshop organized by the Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance and in the followup Acquisition Planning Team meetings during the summer of 1996. Their discussions established the utility, feasibility, and features of the shared DOE-wide task order contracts for NEPA support.

The dedicated and efficient work of the Contract Source Evaluation Panel—Roger Twitchell (chair), NEPA Compliance Officer, Idaho Operations Office; Drew Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer, Savannah River Operations Office; and William (Skip) Harrell, Operations Program Manager, and Dawn Knepper, Contracting Officer, both from Albuquerque Operations Office—also contributed immensely to the successful implementation of these contracts. The panel received assistance from Headquarters advisors Carolyn Osborne of the Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance and Tom Brown of the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management.

For information on the DOE-wide NEPA contracts, please contact Dawn Knepper at (505) 845-6215 or by e-mail (dknepper@doeal.gov) or Carolyn Osborne at (202) 586-4596 or by e-mail (carolyn.osborne@eh.doe.gov).

Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance Sponsors Conference on Natural Resource Damage Liability

The Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (EH-41) sponsored a conference under the auspices of the Natural Resource Trustee Coordinator's Steering Committee in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 22, 1997. EH-41 chairs the Department's Natural Resource Trustee Steering Committee. The conference focused on the Department's "Report to the Congress of the United States: Estimate of Potential Natural Resource Damage Liabilities at the U.S. Department of Energy Sites," issued in February 1997. Also discussed was the February 5, 1997, memorandum by Alvin L. Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM), which established an EM policy to address the Department's responsibilities as both natural resource trustee and lead response agency for environmental restoration activities at its sites.

For further information, please contact John Bascietto, Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance at (202) 586-7917. The aforementioned report is available for viewing on the EH-41 Web Site, at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/oepa>, in the "Data/Reports" section.



Attendees at DOE's April 22, 1997, Natural Resource Trustee Coordinator's Steering Committee Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

1997 Fire Safety Workshop

Over 140 fire safety professionals from across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex attended the annual DOE/Contractor Fire Safety Workshop in Pleasanton, California, from April 28 through May 2, 1997. Participants in the forum discussed issues, such as downsizing and privatization; inspection; testing and maintenance problems; changes to industry and DOE fire safety standards; and other related topics.

Co-hosted by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Fire Department (LLNL-FD) and DOE's Office of Environment, Safety and Health, the workshop featured two full days of formal presentations. Presenters discussed fire protection for decontamination and decommissioning operations, recent fire incidents, fire hazards analyses techniques, performance measures in fire protection, new technological developments, fire safety in contracts, applications of automatic fire suppression technology, and fire protection sites on the Internet.

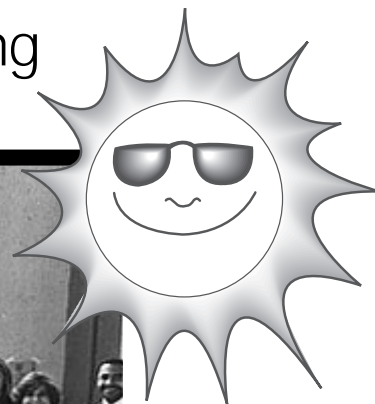
For the first time, the workshop included a number of "short courses," satisfying some continuing professional development requirements for the Department's fire safety staff. These courses focused on the evaluation of fire risk, life safety code concepts, fire alarm and signaling system developments, and the essentials of quantitative risk assessment. Tours of the LLNL-FD facilities and a local fire-testing laboratory were also offered.

The 1998 Fire Safety Workshop is planned for the week of June 8-12, 1998, in Idaho Falls. For additional information, call Dennis Kubicki at 301-903-4794 or by e-mail (dennis.kubicki@eh.doe.gov).



Beginning with **THIS** issue of *Synergy*, printed copies will be sent **ONLY** to those readers who have requested that they remain on the mailing list by returning their mailing labels to Mary Cunningham. *Synergy* will continue to be available to **ALL** readers electronically by accessing <http://tis-hq.eh.doe.gov/docs/synergy/synergy.html>.

Office of Fossil Energy Marks National Running and Fitness Week with a Walk for Fitness



On May 14th, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) Headquarters Employees' Safety and Wellness Program observed National Running and Fitness Week with a Walk for Fitness. FE employees invited colleagues who normally don't participate in the weekly walking program to join in this special event. Participants from Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Energy Research; Human Resources and Administration; Environment, Safety and Health; and Congressional, Public, and Intergovernmental Affairs took part in the walk. Patricia Fry Godley, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, led approximately 55 walkers on a 2-mile course around the National Mall. The walkers enjoyed the perfect weather, the fellowship, and, most importantly, the benefits of walking.

The FE Safety and Wellness Program sponsors group walks at noon every Wednesday at the Forrestal Building and at 270 Corporate Center. The purpose of the group walks is to encourage FE employees to adopt more active life styles and to make walking as exercise a habit. All Headquarters employees are invited to join the FE walkers.

For more information, contact Trudy Transtrum in the Office of Self-Assessment at (202) 586-7253.

Salmon Test Site Cancer Study

As part of the weapons testing program in the 1960s, two nuclear detonations took place in an underground salt dome in Lamar County, Mississippi. This salt dome, the Salmon Test Site (formerly known as the Tatum Salt Dome Test Site), is located 21 miles southwest of Hattiesburg. One of the radioactive materials resulting from the tests was tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen, which usually combines with oxygen and behaves like water. All environmental monitoring for tritium, both immediately after the detonations and subsequently, showed no increase above background levels in water, soil, or air. However, residents in the surrounding area raised concerns about health effects—primarily cancer—related to the Salmon Test Site. The Office of Epidemiologic Studies initiated an epidemiologic study to address these concerns. The study focused on determining if there was a relationship between cancer deaths in Lamar County and residence near the Salmon site.

The Mississippi Department of Health provided the Department with computerized data for all deaths among Lamar County residents (population about 27,000) between 1980 and 1991. Of the 2,251 deaths included in the analyses, 562 (25.7%) were due to cancer. The analyses controlled for age at death, race, sex, and year of death. Because there was no indication that the tritium traveled offsite, exposure for this study was defined as the distance from a decedent's usual

residence at the time of death to ground zero (the center of the detonations). Linear distance from each residence to ground zero was determined and categorized into five concentric rings by 5 mile radii, from 5 miles or less to 21-25 miles.



The analyses indicated that there is no relationship between cancer death and residence near the Salmon Test Site. The risk of death from cancer was no higher for those living nearest to the site than for those living farthest away, nor for those living in one direction compared to another. Also, the observed death rates from cancers potentially caused by exposure to radiation (leukemia, thyroid, and breast cancer) were less than expected.

A copy of this report is available from the Office of Epidemiologic Studies. It will be published in the scientific journal *Archives of Environmental Health* within the next few months. For additional information, contact Dr. Bonnie Richter, Office of Epidemiologic Studies, at (301) 903-4501 or by e-mail (bonnie.richter@eh.doe.gov).



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